

future work in the region for which all those who remain to carry on his work will feel extremely grateful.

In *The Nebraska Bird Review* (Vol. 10, No. 1: 6-15, July 7, 1942) will be found a bibliography of Myron Swenk's publications prepared by Dr. H. Douglas Tate, and in the same number (pp. 15-22) an additional paper (with Edson Fichter) on "The Distribution and Migration of the Solitary Sandpiper in Nebraska."

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BIRD MIGRATION. By A. Landsborough Thomson. H. F. and G. Witherby, Ltd., 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1. 1942: 7 x 4½ in., 192 pp.; 7 photographs and 13 maps. 6s.

In this revised edition, Landsborough Thomson has brought up to date the useful short account of bird migration he originally published in 1936. Type for the new volume has been more closely set, reducing the total number of pages but not the text. The new edition is also printed on a cheap wartime pulp. About four pages of material and several maps have been added.

Ornithologists will be more interested in the new contents of the book than in its physical make-up. Brief accounts are given of the recent studies on homing (by Rüppell, Wodzicki, Lockley, and Griffin) and of the work of experimental biologists (Rowan, Bissonnette, and Wolfson). Mention is also made of the banding results of Nice, B. Roberts, R. J. Middleton, and others. These appear to be the three fields of inquiry currently yielding the most significant facts on bird migration.

Popular books on this subject have one fault in common. Designed for the general reader, they emphasize "the immensity of migration" and its complexity, and suggest little to the bird watcher in the way of concrete studies that he himself can carry out in the field. To a considerable extent this is attributable to the ideal of condensation that has governed recent books on bird migration. F. C. Lincoln summed up the subject in about 65,000 words in 1939; Thomson here covers it in about 50,000. Such a condensation also necessitates the omission of many aspects of a field that is admittedly complex. To the reviewer, the present volume is regrettably vague on the subject of the periodic irruptions studied by Gross, Formosof, and Speirs.

In spite of this, the book can be considered the best general statement of bird migration now available for the layman. Although British birds have deliberately been allowed to predominate as examples, a check of the excellent index reveals that about 43 per cent of the species listed are probably known to the average bird student in North America. Supplemented by Lincoln's pamphlet of 1935 (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Circular, 363), it therefore offers American readers an inexpensive and up-to-date summary of the general features of bird migration and of our present theories on the subject.—J. J. Hickey.